



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

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2011
 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



MAYOR
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COUNCILMEMBERS
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 Robert Littlefield
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MISSION

The mission of the City of Scottsdale is to cultivate citizen trust by fostering and practicing open, accountable, and responsive government; providing quality core services; promoting long-term prosperity; planning and managing growth in harmony with the city’s unique heritage and desert surroundings; strengthening the city’s standing as a preeminent destination for tourism; and promoting livability by enhancing and protecting neighborhoods. Quality of life shall be the city’s paramount consideration.



CORE PRINCIPLES

PROTECT SCOTTSDALE’S QUALITY OF LIFE

Protect those attributes that make Scottsdale unique and desirable. These may include: safe neighborhoods; a Sonoran Desert lifestyle; arts and culture; land preservation and open space; a vibrant and sustainable economy; efficient transportation; and high standards of aesthetics, public amenities and levels of service.

PRESERVE LOCAL FUNDING

Protect existing funding and authorities that bring revenues to the City of Scottsdale which support the quality of life for its residents. Such areas might include the protection of state-shared revenues, the ability to collect compensation for the use of a public right-of-way, or opposition to the imposition of new fees by other levels of governments that would increase costs to the City.

OPPOSE PREEMPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

Support the retention of local decision-making authority. Scottsdale was voluntarily created by the residents of this community to provide local self-government and to allow the Scottsdale City Council to make decisions at a local level that best meet the needs of the community. Scottsdale has unique needs and characteristics that are best met by policies set by its own local governing body. Unfunded mandates and preemptive efforts to remove the ability to set policy at the local level should be opposed.

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

PROTECT STATE SHARED REVENUES – Arizona voters chose, through a series of initiatives, to return a portion of tax revenues back to local communities through revenue sharing. This was provided to municipalities in exchange for losses in local taxing authority such as income and luxury taxes. The City Council adopted FY 10/11 General Fund revenues include \$48.6M in state-shared revenues (\$17.6M Sales Tax, \$22.8M Income Tax, and \$8.2M Auto Lieu Tax) or 20% of General Fund Revenues and Cash Transfers In. Those state-shared revenues fund 21% of the City’s General Fund Operating Budget of approximately \$235M.

REVITALIZATION DISTRICTS – SEEK revisions to Scottsdale’s Revitalization District legislation (HB 2003) to further enhance its ability to be used as an economic vitality tool and to initiate needed technical changes.

CITY AUDITORS; ACCESS TO INFORMATION – SEEK legislation that would allow city auditors to have legal access to the minutes of a city’s executive session meetings in instances of the performance of their official duties, and would allow specific files and records containing confidential and sensitive information used by city auditors in the performance of their duties to be exempt from Arizona public records provisions.

SUPPORT/OPPOSE ITEMS

ECONOMIC VITALITY

ECONOMIC VITALITY – SUPPORT working with the State, other governments, and private enterprises to identify future economic growth opportunities. OPPOSE legislation that would diminish the ability of local governments to provide supportive services to local businesses or revitalize areas within city boundaries. OPPOSE efforts that would create additional regulatory or administrative hurdles to the local economic engine.

TOURISM – SUPPORT efforts to increase the visibility of Arizona and Arizona cities and towns as being tourism destinations.

NEIGHBORHOODS

FIREWORKS – OPPOSE efforts to preempt the local control of the use of fireworks.

PRESERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

STATE LAND REFORM – SUPPORT legislation that makes positive changes to State Land policies allowing cities and towns the ability to preserve land for open space.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

WATER SERVICE – PROTECT and enhance the City’s ability to provide safe, sustainable, and reliable water and wastewater services to the citizens of Scottsdale at a reasonable cost. Examples of legislation that may fall under this statement include:

- Legislation to ensure the City’s role in the management and continued use of reclaimed water and surface water.
- Legislation to increase supplies of water through efficiency improvements or natural resource management.
- Legislation to maintain municipal access to supplies of Central Arizona Project delivered water.